

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 T-03 GAC-01 OMB-01 SY-07

OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 IO-12

AID-20 /165 W

----- 029399

P R 121250 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8489

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMFBASSY YAOUNDE 0104

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0359

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINS GV US

SUBJECT : INVASION THREAT

REF: STATE 040818

1. DURING MEETING WITH PYESIDENT SEKOULTOUYE MARCH 10 AT MY REQUEST, I EXPRESSED REGRET THAT, DESPITE OUR AGREEMENT FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATION ON TROUBLESOM REPORTS OR POSSIBLE PROBLEMS, GUINEA RADIO AND PRESS HAD PUBLICIZED FALSE REPORT IMPLICATING AMERICANS IN UNTRUE ALBATROSS STORY.

2. TOURE RESPONDED WITH FULL AND COMPLETE APOLOGY TAKING ENTIRE BLAME ON HIMSELF, AND ADMITTING THAT HE MAY GAVE MADE A MISTAKE. HE SAID THAT IN ANY CASE US GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN ACCUSED. MERE REPETITION OF FACT THAT SOME PRIVATE AMERICANS WERE INVOLVED SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ACCUSATION OF US GOVERNMENT SINCE NATIONALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING
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GUINEA ITSELF, HAD BEEN MENTIONED WITHOUT GOVERNMENT BEING IMPLICATED.

3. SEKOU TOURE OFFERED FOLLOWING EXPLANATION OF MANNER IN WHICH INCIDENT HAD DEVELOPED. DURING CEREMONIES FOLLOWING CABRAL' S ASSASSINATION, CANARY ISLAND NATIONALIST TOLD HIM THAT SOMETHING WAS BEING PREPARED AGAINST EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GUINEA AND GUINEA BISSAU. SAME NATIONALIST LEADER WROTE TO CONFIRM STORY AND PROVIDE MORE DETAILS. IN VIEW OF ACCURATE TDREPORT WHICH THIS PERSON HAD GIVEN EARLIER ON PLOT BEING PREPARED AGAINST PAIGC, SEKOU TOURE FELT IT WAS MATTER WORTHY TS SERIOUS ATTENTION. LATER, IN MOROCCO, MEMBERS OF GUINEAN FOOTBALL TEAM NOTED ARTICLE IN MAGHREB INFORMATIONS CONTAINING ABOUT SAME INFORMATION AS CANARY ISLAND NATIONALIST HAD FURNISHED. KNOWING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND US, AND THE FACT THAT MAGHREB INFORMATIONS IS GOVERNMENT- AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION, HE FELT SUCH STORY COULD NOT HAVE APPEARED UNLESS BASIS WAS TOO STRONG TO BE DENIED. ALSO, GUINEA COULD NOT AFFORD MINIMIZE ANY REPORT CONTAINING REFERENCE TO PORTUGUESE WHO EVEN NOW HAVE AGENTS AT KAMSAR AND WARSHIPS PATROLLING JUST OUTSIDE OF GUINEAN WATERS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES HE FELT GUINEAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE TOLD ABOUT INCIDENT QUICKLY SO THEY WOULD NOT RELAX VIGILANCE. SEKOU TOURE CONCLUDED THAT FROM REPORTS HE HAD SINCE RECEIVED FROM SPANISH AMBASSADOR, IT APPEARS THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE FOR WHICH HE ACCEPTS FULL BLAME AND PRESENTS APOLOGIES. SEKOU TOURE SAID HE HAD TOLD SPANISH AMBASSADOR IF SPANISH AUTHORITIES WOULD SEND HIM MESSAGE EXPRESSING ASTONISHMENT AT PUBLISHED REPORT AND GIVING FULL STORY AS TOLD TO HIM, INCLUDING FACT THAT PRESIDENT MACIAS AND OAU HAD BEEN INFORMED, HE WOULD HAVE THAT MESSAGE PUBLICIZED AND WOULD RETRACT ORIGINAL ARTICLE.

4. PRESIDENT RECONFIRMED AGREEMENT TO CHECK WITH ME ON ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE US WHENEVER CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIME PERMIT.

5. FOR DAKAR: REQUEST SPANISH AMBASSADOR BE INFORMED OF ABOVE AND THAT HE BE URGED TO SEND MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT AS SUGGESTED ALONG LINES OF NOTE WHICH HE GAVE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. WORTH REMARKING TO SPANISH AMBASSADOR THAT ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER FILY CISSOKO WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, HE MADE NO MENTION OF HAVING RECEIVED NOTE FROM SPANISH AMBASSADOR WHICH EXPLAINED FACTS FULLY. THUS, IT MOST LIKELY CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT PRESIDENT HAS NOT SEEN NOTE AND IS NOT AWARE OF ITS
EXISTANCE.
TODMAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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